

What Is Claimed Is:

1. A method of communicating information about a called party to a calling party comprising a sequence of the following steps:

- 5 collecting the number of the party called by the calling party;
- accessing a database to retrieve the address for locating a customized file of the called party;
- transmitting the address to a device at the
10 calling party's premises,
- retrieving the customized file for use by the calling party's device; and
- connecting the called party with the calling
15 party over a telephone network using the number of the party called.

2. The invention defined by Claim 1 wherein said calling party's device is located at the calling party's premises and is used to generate the number.

3. The invention defined by Claim 1 wherein
20 the device is a telephone including a keyboard for entering said number and a display for displaying said file.

4. The invention defined by Claim 3 wherein
25 said telephone includes a microcomputer and a modem for connecting with the Internet, said address is the URL associated with the called party's telephone number, and said file is the World Wide Web Page of the called party.

5. The invention defined by Claim 3 wherein said telephone includes a microcomputer connected with the Internet via an SSP of an AIN-based telephone network, said address is the URL associated with the called party's telephone number stored in a database connected with the Internet, and said file is the World Wide Web Page of the called party.

6. The invention defined by Claim 3 wherein said telephone includes a microcomputer connected with the Internet via a central office of a telephone network, said address is the URL associated with the called party's telephone number stored in a database connected with the Internet, and said file is the World Wide Web Page of the called party.

7. A method of communicating information about a called party to a calling party comprising a sequence of the following steps:

placing a telephone call to a party through a network interconnecting customer premise equipment (CPE) of the called and calling parties;

accessing a database storing a Universal Resource Locator (URL) associated with the telephone number of the called party and retrieving the URL;

transmitting the URL associated with the telephone number of the called party, through said network to the calling party's CPE,

retrieving and displaying the World Wide Web page associated with the URL on the calling party's CPE; and

connecting the called party's CPE to the calling party's CPE over the network to permit voice communication between the parties.

8. Apparatus for communicating information about a called party to a calling party comprising:

a calling party CPE for placing a telephone call to a called party;

5 a called party CPE for receiving a telephone call from a calling party;

a network interconnecting the called and calling party CPE's;

10 said network including storage means for storing customized information associated with the telephone number of the called party; -

said network further including means for retrieving and transmitting said information to said calling party CPE;

15 said calling party CPE including means for displaying said information.

9. The apparatus defined in Claim 8 wherein said information is a Universal Resource Locator (URL), said calling party CPE further including means for
20 accessing the Internet for retrieving the World Wide Web page associated with said URL.

10. The apparatus defined in Claim 9 wherein said network includes an SSP connected with the calling party CPE, and an SCP connected with said storage means
25 for accessing said customized information.

11. The apparatus defined in Claim 9 wherein said network includes a central office connected with said calling party CPE and with said storage means for accessing said customized information.